

Trust Headquarters  
 Russell's Hall Hospital  
 Dudley  
 West Midlands  
 DY1 2HQ

**Ref:** FOI-102024-0001185

**Date:** 08/11/2024

**Address / Email:**

Dear

**Request Under Freedom of Information Act 2000**

Thank you for requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

**Request**

1. What is the current reported virtual wards beds capacity?
2. Out of this capacity, what number/percentage are enabled for remote patient monitoring?
3. What is the current utilisation percentage specifically for the virtual ward beds that are enabled for remote patient monitoring (rather the overall utilisation including used for face-to-face consultations)?
4. Does the utilisation of the remote patient monitoring-enabled virtual ward beds fluctuate over time? If so, could you provide an average percentage or a breakdown of utilisation across different time periods?
5. If you are unable to provide the utilisation percentage(s), could you explain the process used to capture and measure the utilisation of the remote patient monitoring-enabled virtual beds?

**Response**

Q1: Funded Bed Capacity as follows

Virtual Ward 01 – Respiratory	16
Virtual Ward 03 – Frailty	12
Virtual Ward 04 – Paediatrics	12
Virtual Ward 07 – Heart Failure	6
Virtual Ward 08 – Complex Nutrition	6
Virtual Ward 10 – AMU	6

Q2 = 100%

Q3 = 100%

Q4 = Requested breakdown of data is not readily available. We do not hold historical data. Our figures are submitted externally biweekly where we record Occupancy rates against our funded bed capacity levels above. Methodology used to track, is tracking the use of 'Virtual Ward beds' within the period. Where a patients spell between these dates, they were active in the bed slots for 'Virtual Wards'. For example, between a two-week period we may have occupancy of 31

patients which used the 16 available slots on Virtual Ward 01 – Respiratory. This does not mean 31 patients are active at one time, instead usage within the period.

We are required by the national team to submit our occupancy rates as detailed above biweekly for two-week periods at a time. We submit to NHS FDP – NHS Federated Data Platform. Requestor may be able to view/request insights from here. [FDP National Homepage - FDP National Homepage](#)

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you have the right to appeal in line with guidance from the Information Commissioner. In the first instance you may contact the Information Governance Manager of the Trust.

Information Governance Manager  
Trust Headquarters  
Russell's Hall Hospital  
Dudley  
West Midlands  
DY1 2HQ  
Email: [dgft.dpo@nhs.net](mailto:dgft.dpo@nhs.net)

Should you disagree with the contents of our response to your appeal, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioners Office at.

Information Commissioners Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF  
Tel: 0303 123 1113  
[www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

If you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information Team**  
**The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust**